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Search through the literature of described species revealed no plant of like character. It is therefore described as a new species, and provisionally placed in the genus *Poria*, although it is recognized that the plants of this genus are a heterogeneous group which sooner or later will be separated into several genera or distributed among the genera of pileate forms with which they correspond in texture and other characters. The specific name *atrosporia* is given because of the abundance of dark spores. A technical description is as follows:

***Poria atrosporia***, n. sp.—Mycelium within the substratum or in a superficial layer of soft cottony or thin papery consistency; color pale umbrinous: sporophore resupinate, broadly effused, easily separable: margin sterile, pale umbrinous: hymenophore porose, not stratosed, very fragile and friable when dry; pores 1–5 mm. deep, dissepiments thin, mouths irregular to subrotund, 1–5 to a mm.: trama pale umbrinous, but pores deep fuliginous because of the abundance of dark spores; spores oval, dark brown,  $4-5.5 \times 8-10 \mu$ ; cystidia none. Habitat, structural timber of coniferous wood.

Mycelio substratum penetrante vel stratum superficiem byssinum vel papyraceum formante; sporophora resupinata, late effusa, a matrice separabilis; margine sterili, umbrino-pallido; poris non stratosed, siccatis fragilibus et friabilibus, 1–5 mm. longis; parietibus tenuibus; ore irregulari vel subcirculari, 1–5 quoque mm.: trama umbrina-pallida sed poris fuliginosis ob copiosos umbrinos; sporis ovatis  $4-5.5 \times 8-10 \mu$ ; cystidiis nullis. Hab. ad ligna fabricata coniferarum.—ADELINE AMES, *Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.*

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## A SAFETY RAZOR MODIFIED FOR CUTTING HAND-SECTIONS

(WITH ONE FIGURE)

Since the advent of the many styles of “safety razors,” biologists have looked with covetous eye upon their keen and cheap blades, seemingly unadapted to any purpose except that intended by the manufacturer. Microtomists have produced several devices to utilize these keen edges and at the same time hold the blades solidly so as to avoid trembling, but, so far as I am aware, none of these razors has been used for hand-sectioning, or, if the blades have been used, the handles have been of no assistance.

Some time ago, needing section razors for the use of large classes, I looked over the various kinds of safety razors for sale in shops and found among them one known as the “Durham-Duplex,” which, by slight modification, has become very well adapted to the purposes for which

students have need of a section cutter. This razor has two advantages over most safety razors, so far as our present purposes are concerned. In the first place, it is much like an old-style razor in general shape, the

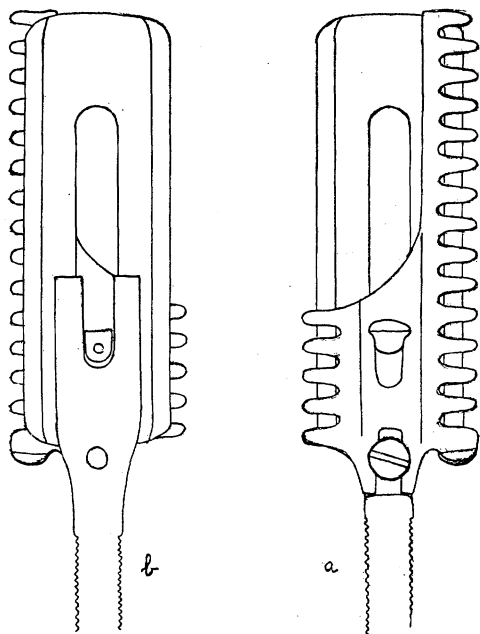


FIG. 1.—Modified safety razor: explained in text

blade, however, being removable and protected by a nickel-plated brass guard. In the second place, the blades are thicker, longer, and stiffer than those provided with most safety razors.

The accompanying drawings (fig. 1) will show at a glance the changes that have been made upon the "Durham-Demonstrator."

As shown by *a*, the protecting shield has been cut away so as to leave a portion of the blade exposed for use. The other drawing (*b*), showing the other side of the razor, illustrates the

cutting off of the brass supporting handle, thus leaving the blade free beneath. A screw fitted into the handle at the base of the blade is at once the means of holding the latter rigid, as well as of permitting its easy removal for cleaning or changing the cutting edge, the slot filed into the base of the guard making of this a very simple operation.

In practice this razor has proved very successful with large classes, providing an abundance of sharp edges as well as saving the time of an assistant on whom the work of honing would otherwise fall.—J. P. GIVLER, *Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas*.

## ON STEMONITIS NIGRESCENS AND RELATED FORMS

That MACBRIDE, in his *North American slime-moulds*, retains *Stemonitis nigrescens* Rex as a distinct and well marked species, while the LISTERS, in their *Monograph of the Mycetozoa*, refer it unhesitatingly